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PART I

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Sanctions a sum of Rupees Two lakhs for Special Repairs of the Inter-Village Roads for 1948-49.

ORDER No. L.B. 9231-45—V.P. 14-48-46, DATED BANGALORE, THE 20TH APRIL 1949.

The Scheme for the Inter-Village Communications was launched in the year 1940 according to which roads were selected by a Committee in each District and entrusted to the Public Works Department for execution. As this procedure was not much helpful in opening communications to the interior parts of the State, revised instructions were issued in June 1944. In pursuance thereof, selection of roads and their execution was the responsibility of the Revenue Department, while works involving technical skill were continued to be got executed through the Public Works Department. This scheme is in force for the past three years. A length of about 500 miles has so far been formed by the Public Works Department, and the Revenue Department has formed about 1,200 miles of inter-village roads.

2. The activities of the Revenue and the Public Works Departments have confined themselves mainly to the formation of the roads. Owing to the poor finances of the village panchayets and also for want of definite budget grants systematic action has not been taken to attend to the repairs and maintenance of the roads formed out of the Inter-Village Communication Funds. There have been repeated representations in regard to the arrangements to be made for the regular repairs, etc., of roads which have deteriorated and deteriorating for want of such action.

3. Government consider that unless immediate action is taken to effect repairs to the roads already formed at considerable expenditure, the money spent on the formation of these roads would be a waste, apart from the fact that the roads would not facilitate traffic and communication. They are therefore pleased to sanction a sum of Rupees Two lakhs out of the unspent balance at the credit of the Inter-Village Communication Funds and place the amount at the disposal of the Commissioner for Rural Development for being distributed among the Districts in accordance with the volume of work to be attended to in each District with the following instructions :—

(1) The Deputy Commissioners of Districts in consultation with the District Development Committees should take immediate action for getting repairs and maintenance done to the roads under their control accepting contribution either in cash or labour from the villagers, and limiting the expenditure from Government Funds to Rs. 100 per mile.

(2) The Public Works Department should attend to the repairs of such roads as are not handed over to the Revenue Department.

(3) In respect of special repairs the above limit of Rs. 100 per mile need not be strictly adhered to. In such cases such portions of the roads as are very bad may be got repaired providing larger grants to the extent required.

(4) The Deputy Commissioners in consultation with the District Development Committees may place out of the District Grants to be allotted by the Commissioner for Rural Development, suitable amounts at the disposal of the Public Works Department for attending to the maintenance work of the roads that are not handed over to the Revenue Department during 1948-49.

(5) The Commissioner for Rural Development is requested to take immediate action to distribute this grant among the Districts and submit proposals regarding the future policy for the formation and maintenance of Inter-Village Roads and the budget grants to be provided for, with necessary statistical information keeping in view the length of roads formed and the programme for roads and the requirements of each District, with reference to the varying standards of roads.

SYED ABDUL ALEEM, *Rev. Secy.*